PENDING LISTING

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A method for transmission of messages, comprising:

transmitting a message from a first message service provider to a second message service provider, and

evaluating the message at the second message service provider,

wherein the message contains at least a first header field which includes a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in processing the message.

40. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further comprising

transmitting the message from the second message service provider to a network element outside a service environment with the message containing at least a second header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the second message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

41. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 40, wherein the message, on transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment contains the first header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

42. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 40, further comprising

transmitting the message from the network element outside the service environment back via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with the reference(s) set from the first and/or second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

43. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the reference features the specification of a return path.

44. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the transmitted message is evaluated after arrival at the second message service provider from a switching node.

45. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the functionality of the message is evident from at least one header field.

46. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, to which network element in the second message service provider the message will be relayed.

47. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

48. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is integrated into a relaying means.

49. (Previously Presented) A system for transmission of messages, comprising:

a first message service provider configured to transmit a message to a second message service provider; and

a device for evaluating the message at the second message service provider,

wherein the message contains at least a first header field which includes a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in processing the message.

50. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the second message service provider is configured to transmit the message to a network element outside a service environment, the message containing at least a second header field which features a reference to at least one

network element of the second message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

51. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 50, wherein the message, on transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment, contains the first header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message.

52. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 50, wherein the network element outside the service environment back is configured to transmit the message via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with the reference(s) set from the first and/or second header field being resolved in each return transmission step.

53. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the reference features the specification of a return path.

54. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein a switching node is configured to evaluate the message after arrival at the second message service.

55. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the functionality of the message is evident from at least one header field.

56. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, the network element in the second message service provider to which the message will be relayed.

57. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element.

58. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with one of the Claims 54, wherein the switching node is integrated into a relaying means.

59. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a mobile radio terminal.

60. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a mobile radio terminal.

61. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a Transceiver.

62. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a Transceiver.